ASSEMBLY PRAYERS

1933

REV. NORMAN M. GOLDBURG

CHAPLAIN

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CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

FIFTIETH SESSION

1933

PRAYERS

OFFERED AT THE DAILY SESSIONS
OF THE ASSEMBLY

REV. NORMAN M. GOLDBURG
Rabbi of Temple B'nai Israel of Sacramento
CHAPLAIN

CALIFORNIA STATE PRINTING OFFICE
HARRY HAMMOND, STATE PRINTER
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RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Rabbi Norman M. Goldburg, Chaplain of the Assembly during the fiftieth session, has by his prayers each morning, brought to this body valuable inspiration, and has reminded the members of their obligation not only to their God but to their fellow men, to the State, and the Nation; and

WHEREAS, His intellectual attainments have compelled the admiration of all within his hearing and have won the personal regard of all the members; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly be and he hereby is authorized and instructed to have printed two hundred fifty booklets containing the prayers offered at this session, and that he send one of said booklets to each member of the Assembly and to each Desk Clerk of the Assembly, and the remaining booklets to Rabbi Norman M. Goldburg.

RABBI NORMAN M. GOLDBURG, Chaplain

DEDICATION

To Julia, Rose and Sally Ann, Mother, Wife and Daughter—in the order of their appearance, share and share alike.

California Legislature

(Fiftieth Session)

PRAYERS

January 2

HEAVENLY FATHER, may we at this solemn hour of Assembly, give ear to the word of the Psalmist who spoke in Thy name, saying:

"Happy is the man that hath not walked in the counsel of the wicked,
Nor stood in the way of sinners,
Nor sat in the seat of the scornful.
But his delight is in the law of the Lord;
And in His law doth he mediate day and night." [1]

We thank Thee, O God, for this vision of the true purpose of life. We acknowledge our indebtedness to the prophets and sages of antiquity no less than to the seers of our own day. To all who have drawn waters of inspiration from the well of Thy instruction, we give thanks. For Thou hidest not Thy

[1] Psalm 1:1-2

light from any who seek after Thee and strive to know Thee.

Our Father, help up to keep fresh in our minds, this knowledge of Thee and Thy Divine plan for mankind. Cause us to walk in the light of Thy countenance. Regard our way, as it is said, "For the Lord regardeth the way of the righteous; but the way of the wicked shall perish."

Imbue within these legislators the will with which to meet the problems of this crucial hour in a forthright and courageous manner.

May they never falter in the pursuit of duty to the nation, the state and the people.

Grant that they may not be divided through bickering, through jealousy or through selfishness. Grant that whatever differences may arise from time to time, may be composed for the common good—that occasional disagreements may be settled for the best interests of all. Inspire them with the spirit of harmony—that by means of their cooperative efforts—the welfare of our great State may be protected and advanced.

January 3

"SING UNTO THE LORD a new song: sing unto the Lord all the earth."[1]

It is comely to sing praises to Thy name, O most high. It is meet that we direct to Thee the petitions of our heart.

For the blessings Thou hast conferred upon us in the year that has passed, we thank Thee. For the privilege of laboring in Thy service to promote fellowship and peace in this, Thy world, we are grateful to Thee.

Grant, in this year, upon which we have entered, a deepening of the desire to serve Thee. Grant a strengthening of the resolve to do the things left undone in the year that has passed.

May we recognize and grasp the opportunities Thou presentest to us day by day. Fire us with high hope, with courage and resolution, that we may approach each day's work in a spirit of consecration, and complete it, happy in the knowledge that we are fulfilling our mission in a manner pleasing to Thee.

[1] Psalm 96:1

January 4

OUR GOD, MALACHI, prophecying in Thy name, declared,

"Have we not all one Father?
Hath not one God created us all?" [1]

And we echo: "In truth, are not all men of all races, colors or creeds joined together in common kinship with Thee, Creator of the World, Father of mankind?

We gratefully acknowledge that Thou art our Father in heaven. We exult in that Thou hast created us in Thine image and hast endowed us with a portion of Thy holy spirit.

We pray that this knowledge may never depart from our hearts. We pray that this sense of brotherhood with all the children of Thy creation may be ever present in our thoughts.

Make us ever aware of the ties that bind us together. Cause us to forget the differences which separate us.

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[1] Malachi 2:10

May we never be called upon to ask, "Why do we deal treacherously every man against his brother, profaning the covenant of our fathers."

Rather, may it be said of us that we deal justly, one with the other; that we hold our brothers in esteem and affection; that we guard the covenant of our fathers and cherish zealously the ideal of human brotherhood.

* * *

January 5

RIGHTEOUS JUDGE of the Universe, "Thou art slow to anger and rich in mercy."[1] In loving kindness Thou bearest with Thy recreant children: in the abundance of Thy goodness Thou dealest with all.

Created in Thy image, we are, nevertheless, children of dust—mortal and not Divine. Thou knowest the weakness of our common frailty and hast compassion upon us. Else we should be lost—for who could justify himself before Thee, all Righteous; who could withstand Thy anger.

[1] Psalm 103:8

Grant, O God, that Thy loving kindness may penetrate to the innermost recesses of our hearts. Grant that, like Thee, we may not be moved to anger and resentment against our fellows. Guard our tongues from uttering reproach and condemnation. Make us sympathetic to those who suffer in silence; compassionate to such as are downtrodden and in despair; and ever heedful to the cry of all, who in agony of spirit, look to us for hope and encouragement.

* * *

January 6

ON THE DEATH OF CALVIN COOLIDGE

HEAVENLY FATHER, in whose hands are the souls of all the living and the spirits of all flesh, Thou art the Author of life and death. Thou usherest us into this world and when our brief span of days is ended Thou transportest us to life eternal. The body returns to the dust whence it came; the soul returns to Thee, its Divine source.

With trusting hearts we confide our lives to Thy keeping. When Thou takest unto Thyself that which was ever Thine, we say, with heads bowed in submission to Thy inscrutable will, "The Lord hath given; the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.

In Thine infinite wisdom Thou hast seen fit to bring to an end the earthly career of Calvin Coolidge, our former chief executive.

With heavy hearts we mourn his passing in this hour of crisis when trusted leaders and statesmen are sorely needed by the nation. Sincerely, we bemoan the loss of a unique and exemplary personality symbolic of the homely yet admirable virtues of the American spirit.

The rugged simplicity of his nature, the terse manner of expression, the political sagacity, the indifference to ostentation and display, the constant devotion to public service—these will be missed, now that Thou hast removed him from this life.

Grant O Father of mercy, the balm of Thy consolation to his sorrowing helpmate. Com-

fort his friends and familiars to whom he was ever a tower of strength, a safe and dependable counsellor and guide.

Grant that the lesson of his deeds and accomplishments may not be lost upon the American people. Though at Thy command he has passed from this earthly scene, may the inspiration of his good works continue to play upon this America he loved and may it enrich the sum total of American life.

* * *

January 9

GRACIOUS FATHER, "the heavens declare Thy glory, the firmament showeth Thy handiwork." [1] The earth whose foundations Thou hast set attests to Thy creative power. Sun, moon and myriad stars sing a paean of adoration to Thee, Creator of the Universe.

We, Thy children, praise Thy name, Thou Who dost eternally renew for us the wonders of Thy creation. The dawn of each new day, with its quota of joys and sorrows, its solemn

[1] Psalm 19:1

duties and obligations is a challenge to us. We thank Thee for the privilege of working, of creating and aspiring, in this, the world Thou hast designed for us. We are grateful for the opportunity of sharing with Thee in the sacred task of perfecting and glorifying Thy handiwork.

Imbue us with love for the work Thou allotest to us day by day. Cause us to understand that only in the faithful performance of our duties can we truly worship Thee. Inspire us that we may dedicate upon Thy altar deeds conceived in purity of purpose and executed with strength of will; deeds that bespeak "clean hands and a pure heart"; deeds that express the longing of our hearts to know Thee and to understand Thy ways.

* * *

January 10

"Thy loving-kindness, O Lord, is in the heavens
Thy faithfulness reacheth unto the skies
Thy righteousness is like the mountains of God
Thy judgments are a great deep:
O Lord, Thou preservest man and beast."[1]

[1] Psalm 36:5ff

As Thou weighest us in the scales of judgment, balancing our iniquities against Thy compassion and mercy—so may we, Thy children execute judgment here below. May we ever temper our human justice with that loving kindness Thou showest to them that seek Thee.

May it be our aim, not to condemn, but to understand; not to punish, but to discipline; not to destroy utterly, but to lead to the altar of Thy forgiveness Thy erring children—that in Thy light they may see light and again be at one with Thee.

* * * January 11

O GOD OF JUSTICE and mercy, Thy prophet Micah speaking to the people in days of old said:

"It hath been told thee, O man what is good and what the Lord doth require of thee: Only to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with Thy God." [1]

We thank Thee, O Eternal One, for the inspiration of this prophetic utterance.

[1] Micah 6:8

May we take unto ourselves the words of this prophet of antiquity.

May we, in the work with which we have been entrusted, do justly. May the laws we enact in this session give evidence of our love of mercy. And may we, in all our deliberations, walk humbly with God, that, through us, the day may come speedily, when the reign of justice and mercy will be ushered into the world.

* * *

January 12

IN WISDOM hast Thou founded the earth, Thou Who art the source of wisdom, the Father of understanding.

The myriad wonders of Thy creation attest to Thy knowledge and to Thy providential care.

May we seek for and discover that wisdom which maketh glad the heart of man. Give us understanding and discernment—that kindness and truth may not forsake us—that we may find grace and favour in Thy sight and in the sight of man.

January 13

FATHER OF MANKIND, Thy desire is for harmony: Thy plan is for peace and understanding: Thy instruction is to the end that all men may recognize their common brotherhood and dependence upon Thee. Thy purpose envisions a world where peace and goodwill and quiet are the accepted order of things.

Gracious Father, accept our praises: be receptive to our petitions: hear our supplications, as we pour out our hearts before Thee.

Our yearning is toward Thee, O Father. Our purpose is to fashion our lives upon the plan Thou hast prepared for us. We are willing, O Father, to follow whithersoever Thou leadest. Yet, though the spirit be willing, the flesh is weak—though we aspire to Thee, we fall short of the ideals we cherish; we do not reach the goals we have set for ourselves.

Buoy us up when we falter, O God. Clear away the mists when the way becomes obscured before us. Encourage us when we

become discouraged, enhearten us when we become disheartened. When the path is dark and dreary, be Thou our light and our salvation, our rock and our redeemer.

* * *

January 16

HEAVENLY FATHER, we approach Thee this morning with the words of Samuel Johnson, who wrote:

"O Lord in Whose hands are life and death, by Whose power I am sustained, and by Whose mercy I am spared, look down upon me with pity. Forgive me that I have until now so much neglected the duty which Thou hast assigned to me and suffered the days and hours of which I must give account to pass away without any endeavor to accomplish Thy will. Make me to remember, O God, that every day is Thy gift and ought to be used according to Thy command. Grant me, therefore, so to repent of my negligence, that I may obtain mercy from Thee, and pass the time which Thou shalt yet allow me in diligent performance of Thy commands."

May the words of this sage communicate his message to our hearts, O God, that we may, with one accord, pledge ourselves to the fulfillment of Thy commandments and the glorification of Thy name.

* * *

January 17

HEAVENLY FATHER, not in the wind, not in the earthquake, not in the fire; but in the still small voice dost Thou speak unto us, Thy children.

"Thou art near unto all who call upon Thee, to all who call upon Thy name in truth."

Eagerly, we seek to know Thee, O God, to do what Thou in Thine infinite wisdom requirest of us.

May Thy presence be manifest unto us at all times. Make us ever mindful of the still small voice from within. Grant that in the hour of self-communion, Thy presence may break in upon the solitude of our thoughts. Lift Thou us up—out of the depths into which our self-sufficiency plunges us—to a

clearer vision of Thy omnipotence. So may we in obedience to Thy commandments consecrate ourselves to Thee and Thy service.

* * *

January 18

FATHER OF MERCY, Thou art the source of all our blessings. Thou scatterest Thy benefactions upon all Thy children; the gifts of Thy goodness upon those who are created in Thine image.

Grant, in these difficult times that we may ever put our trust in Thee: that we may not be dismayed or discomfited. May no word of complaint pass our lips; no thought of disaffection mar our serenity. Cause us to look with calm resignation upon the loss of those things which Thou hast taken from us. Make us to realize that, though, seemingly, we have lost much, in reality we have lost nothing.

Grant us insight to view all things in their true perspective and to understand that Thy beneficences are imperishable and everlasting. So may we, putting our confidence in Thee, find comfort, satisfaction and happiness in this, Thy wondrous world.

January 19

TO BURT

"Why are the nations in an uproar?
And why do the peoples mutter in vain?
The kings of the earth stand up,
And the rulers take counsel together. . . ."[1]

Why, O God, is man, the crown of Thy creation, in despair? Why is the son of man helpless and perplexed in this world, created to satisfy all his wants and needs.

Verily, Thy people are prostrate before Thee, O Eternal One. They seek for guidance and find it not: they yearn for deliverance and their leaders fail them.

Grant, O God, a speedy salvation to all who suffer through no fault of their own. Answer the prayers of the lowly and distressed—ease the burden of the heavy-laden—and bring redemption to the victims of human blundering and cupidity, in this and in every land.

Give wisdom to the Kings; understanding and discernment to the rulers of men. Admonish the judges and law givers that, by means of their wise decisions, the era of

[1] Psalm 2:1-2

justice and truth and love may be firmly established on the earth.

* * *

January 20

"Fret not Thyself because of evil-doers,
Neither be Thou envious against them
that work unrighteousness. . . ."[1]

Heavenly Father, when we become fretful and rebellious because of the workers of iniquity: envious toward them that walk not in the way Thou hast commanded, may we find renewal of faith in the words of Jeremiah. Looking upon the iniquitous, prosperous and at ease he said:

"Near art Thou to their mouth, but far from their heart—but Thou, O God, Thou knowest me, Thou seest me ever, Thou hast tried my heart which is at one with Thee."

Heavenly Father, grant that we, too, may understand this. . . . May we put our "trust in Thee and do good; may we dwell in the land and cherish faithfulness" that we too may feel the divine joy of being at one with Thee.

[1] Psalm 37:1

January 23

HEAVENLY FATHER, Thou Who art the first and the last—Thou wast, Thou art, Thou wilt ever be our Father and our King.

Author of life, the years Thou grantest us come to an end as a tale that is told. All too brief are the fleeting days Thou allotest to man. He is like the grass of the field which springeth up in the morning and in the evening withers and dies.

Heavenly Father, grant that in this brief interlude we may not spend our days in vanity, our nights in pursuit of folly and madness. Give us the desire to live these swiftly passing hours in a manner befitting free and intelligent men.

* * *

January 24

"Righteous art Thou, O Lord
And upright are Thy judgments." [1]

Thou art the source of all our inspiration, O Lord. Cause us to walk in the light of

[1] Psalm 119:137

Thy inspiring presence that we may become righteous as Thou art righteous, upright as Thou art upright and just as Thou are just.

May we never be at ease so long as injustice prevails in this world of Thy creation. May we never remain complacent while harshness and oppression bring sorrow to many of Thy children.

Give us a share of Thy Divine compassion that, as coworkers with Thee, we may bring consolation to many and pour the healing balm of Thy justice and righteousness upon the wounds of all who suffer.

* * *

January 25

HEAVENLY FATHER, Thou hast set the sun on high to light the way for us. And when the face of the sun is hidden by clouds, and rainfall beats down upon the earth, we are enheartened by the knowledge that beyond the clouds and over and above the storm—the sun is still shining, awaiting Thy command to show himself in all his brilliant splendor.

God of goodness, the light of Thy countenance shines down upon us eternally, brightening all our days and nights.

When the clouds of gloom gather over us and the whirlwind of our sowing rages against us—we are enheartened by the thought that Thou art our guardian, Who sleepeth not and slumbereth not, Who keepeth eternal vigil over all Thy children.

* * *

January 26

"How weighty . . . are Thy thoughts unto me, O God
How great is the sum of them
If I could count them, they are more in number than the sand;
Were I to come to the end of them I would still be with Thee . . .
Search me, O God, and know my heart,
Try me and know my thoughts:
And see if there be any way in me that is grievous."[1]

O God, Thou explorest the innermost recesses of the heart. In Thy sight all secret things are revealed: all that is hidden comes to light.

[1] Psalm 139:17ff

Thy penetrating gaze falls upon us all; upon the upright in heart even as upon him whose lips speak evil and whose heart hideth iniquity. The righteous rejoice to stand in the light of Thy countenance but the wicked dread to come before the throne of Thy mercy, knowing that they can not justify themselves before Thee.

Gracious Father, grant that we may never be ashamed to approach Thee. Grant that when Thou demandest accounting of us we may stand before Thee with clean hands and a pure heart; and that when Thou triest us, Thou mayest not find in us any way that is grievous. Guide us in the way of eternal life, that we may ever be at one with Thee.

* * *

January 27

MASTER BUILDER of the Universe, Thou lookest with favor upon all work wrought in sincerity of purpose and in faithfulness to Thee. "Except the Lord build the house they labor in vain that build it."[1] With-

[1] Psalm 127:1

out Thy blessing all our works are destined to crumble into ruin and decay.

Grant, O Father, that we may never build in vain. Grant that we may plan and build according to the specifications Thou hast set for us.

May we consecrate our hearts and our minds to Thee and Thy service, that Thou mayest look favorably upon our handiwork and give it Thy blessing. "Bless Thou the work of our hands, yea the work of our hands, bless Thou it," that it may endure as an eternal monument to Thy glorious name.

* * *

January 30

KING OF KINGS, how glorious is Thy name in all the earth. We, Thy earthly creatures, approach Thee with trembling. We stand before the throne of Thy greatness in humility of spirit—seeking Thy Divine guidance in the affairs which touch our lives.

With Solomon of old we pray Thee "And now, O Jehovah, my God, Thou hast made Thy servant king instead of David my father:

and I am but a little child; I know not how to go out or come in. And Thy servant is in the midst of Thy people, which Thou hast chosen, a great people that can not be numbered nor counted for multitude. Give Thy servant, therefore, an understanding heart to judge Thy people, that I may discern between good and evil: for who is able to judge this Thy great people?" [1]

In truth, we are as children before Thee, O our Father, and as little children we implore Thee to deal leniently with us. Give us a measure of Thy wisdom; grant us a portion of Thy understanding. Hearken to our petitions, that, in Thee we may find the strength to order our earthly affairs after Thy Divine pattern.

* * *

January 31

GOD OF COUNSEL and understanding —Thou Who implantest within the heart of man the love of all Thy creatures; we thank Thee for Thy favors to us in the month that has passed, for the friendships that

[1] I Kings 3:7-9

have ripened in these legislative halls, for the spirit of fellowship which has prevailed in all our deliberations and above all for the opportunity to serve Thee by performing our services for the citizens of this great State of California.

May we, in the intervening days before we meet again, use to the best advantage the talents with which Thou hast endowed us. May we examine with critical eyes the work which we have thus far accomplished. May we with open minds, with cool judgment and with real consecration pass judgment upon the work of our hands. May we reject that which our wisdom tells us ought to be rejected and accept that which we know to be right and just and for the best interests of our people and our State.

May we, at the expiration of our recess, return to Sacramento and take up the task where we left off. May He who fashioneth the hearts of all men, give us of His counsel and understanding, that we may carry our work to a successful and a happy termination.

ON A BLESSED EVENT

AUTHOR OF LIFE, Thou hast blessed the home of our Assemblyman and friend, Frank Crist, with Thy most precious gift, a baby girl.

Gracious Father, we pray that Thou wilt watch over this child—that Thou wilt guard and protect her.

We pray that she may ever bring happiness to her parents and joy to mankind.

Bless her with good health—with intelligence and wisdom. Give her strength that she may achieve her heart's desire and the desire of all who love her.

May she grow to vigorous girlhood and to lovely womanhood and forever find her joy in Thy service.

ON THE LEGALIZATION OF BEER

HEAVENLY FATHER, Thou hast created this earth as a habitable place and in this wondrous setting Thou hast placed us that we may enjoy life.

Thou hast given us the earth and all its increase . . . fruit of the trees and the many products of the field, "wine that maketh glad the heart of man."

Thou, Who hast endowed us with intelligence—grant that in all things we may exercise wisdom and discretion—grant that we may not abuse the gifts of Thy beneficence—grant that our joy be not too riotous and our indulgence not too unrestrained. May our return to normalcy augur well for the future of our Republic.

Guide Thou our footsteps in the path of moderation.[1]

[1] Printed in the Assembly Journal

TO THE ATTACHES

GRACIOUS FATHER—Thou Who art the benign ruler of the Universe: We thank thee for the lighter moments of life, when we put our worries and cares aside and give ourselves to relaxation and enjoyment.

Thou hast decreed that man shall earn his bread by the sweat of his brow—yet, Thou hast not ordained that life should be all toil and drudgery.

Thou hast implanted within us the yearning to live full and balanced lives, wherein work and play, labor and relaxation are evenly divided.

Grant, O Father, that the hours of play may not be wasted. May we find in the mood of relaxation—comradeship, good fellowship and a better understanding, one with the other.

May the memory of hours, spent in play, carry over to the more sombre periods of the day—brightening them and making tasks and duties easier to perform.

March 1

HEAVENLY FATHER, as we assemble once again to continue our labors, we thank Thee that Thou hast brought us thus far on the way and we pray Thee that Thou wilt permit us to carry on our work with dignity and patience, with honor to our state, to our people and to ourselves.

We thank Thee that Thou hast endowed us with reason. Thou makest us to know the difference between right and wrong. Thou pointest out to each of us the clearly marked way of duty—the way which leads to at-one-ment with Thee.

Teach us to walk in Thy path, O Lord, that we may know Thee.

May we "judge the poor and the fatherless; do justice to the afflicted and destitute; rescue the poor and the needy; and deliver them out of the hand of the wicked." [1]

To Thee we look for guidance. Strengthen Thou us for the arduous tasks which lie ahead.

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[1] Psalm 82:3-4

March 2

HEAVENLY FATHER: Thou Who art patient and long suffering, rich in mercy and quick to forgive, we thank Thee that Thou hast borne with us, that Thou hast guided and sustained us, that Thou hast not been impatient with us, so that we have never been put to shame.

Teach us humility, O God, that we may rid ourselves of arrogance and vain glory. Teach us patience that we may deal lovingly and mercifully with one another. Discipline us in the art of living—that in harmonious accord, in fellowship born of respect and forbearance, and in mutual helpfulness, we may dedicate ourselves to the glory of Thy name.

March 3

ON THE EVE OF INAUGURATION

HEAVENLY FATHER: We are standing on the threshold of a new era. Tomorrow morning a new administration will take over the reins of government of these United States.

We pray Thy blessing upon our new Chief Executive and upon all the members of his official family.

Hopefully and prayerfully do we look to him to lead us out of the valley of despair, in which we have tarried so long.

Give him wisdom, Thou Who art the source of wisdom. Grant him a double portion of Thy holy spirit, that he may have strength to cope successfully with the problems confronting the nation. Keep him in health, in vigor and in enthusiasm.

Guard Thou his going out and his coming in, during these days of stress and strain and grant that the administration he inaugurates, will restore confidence, peace and prosperity to our people and through us to the entire world.

March 4

ON THE INAUGURATION OF FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT AS PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

SUPREME RULER of the Universe and Arbiter of the destinies of man—we thank Thee that our lines have fallen in pleasant places; that we live in this land of the free; this stronghold of civil and religious liberty.

We thank Thee for those who have gone before—the pioneers, the builders, the statesmen; for all the brave spirits, living and dead, who have contributed to the upbuilding of this glorious republic.

At this moment when we turn a page in our history we pray Thee for Thy Divine guidance. Be with us as Thou wast with our fathers. Cause us to dream dreams and see visions even as they did—that like them, we may meet the challenge of the times, so that we may help to restore confidence and bring back a measure of prosperity and happiness to this great land.

March 6

GOD, OUR STRENGTH, Thou takest man through the fires of adversity. Thou triest his heart to see if it be at one with Thee.

To Thee we turn in times of stress, in search of guidance and inspiration, which Thou alone canst give us. When reliance upon our own resources falters and confidence in the work of our hands is waning we look to Thee for renewal of faith, for reawakening of confidence, without which we can not endure.

Heavenly Father, our ever present source of strength, grant that self-confidence may not forsake us—that faith in our fellow men and in the institutions we have created for our mutual benefit and protection, may ever abide within our hearts.

Dispel the clouds of gloomy foreboding which hover over us when we suffer occasional set-backs and reverses. Inspire us with courage that we may rise upon the stepping-stones of failure to ever greater heights of achievement.

Give us the will to overcome the barriers which beset our path, the obstacles which bar our way, challenging our purpose.

May we not give way to the philosophy of defeatism, of easy acceptance and speedy discouragement—rather, imbue Thou us with the spirit of hope and courage, that, with Thy help, we may build upon the ruins of all our yesterdays, the lasting foundations for a brighter tomorrow—and the tools with which we build shall be called "faith" and "confidence."

* * *

March 7

ON THE DEATH OF ANTON CERMAK, MAYOR OF CHICAGO

GOD OF LIFE, to Thee we say: "The Lord giveth, the Lord taketh away; blessed be the name of the Lord."

At this hour when the nation mourns the passing of one of its leaders—late mayor of one of the greatest of our cities—we turn to Thee for that consolation which only Thou canst give us.

Bowed with grief and in submission to Thy Divine will we come before the throne of Thy omnipotence to thank Thee for the earthly years of the departed.

Thou didst endow him with intelligence, O Heavenly Father. Thou didst implant within his heart the love of democratic government. Thou didst lead him in the path of righteousness of honor and devotion and exemplary citizenship. Thou didst crown his efforts with success, so that men might follow the example of the immigrant boy who rose to fame in America.

We pray, O Father, that Thou wilt send Thy consolation to his sorrowing loved ones, to his fellow citizens and his countrymen.

May the memory of this man who died that our President might live, abide with us and inspire us all with the devotion to public service and the love of country he so strikingly exhibited.

March 8

HEAVENLY FATHER, fount of wisdom and inspiration, toward Thee is the petition of our hearts—toward Thee is our striving after the good, the beautiful and the true.

Thou, Who knowest our thoughts before we utter them—Who knowest our desires before we can fathom them—answer Thou our petitions; grant that our strivings may not be in vain. May we, through Thee, find that felicity and experience that bliss, which Thou reservest for all who diligently aspire to know Thee.

* * *

March 9

OUR FATHER and King, "the earth is Thine and the fulness thereof." [1] Thou implantest within the heart of man the yearning to know Thee and the desire to be guided by Thy precepts.

Thy way is the way of light and life, O Father.

[1] Psalm 24:1

Thou dispellest the darkness of superstition and the gloom of ignorance. Thou unfoldest to man the vision of a better world and showest him how to perfect himself in the art of living.

Grant, O Father, that the day may come when all men will cheerfully obey their noble and generous impulses—when all men will recognize that they are brethren, children of a just and merciful Father—when dissension and disharmony will give way to unity and brotherhood—when, in true humility, all men will seek the light of Thy countenance and the inspiration of Thy counsel.

* * *

March 10

GRACIOUS KING, source of all goodness, we thank Thee that our lines are fallen in pleasant places—that we are privileged to live in this "land of the brave and the home of the free."

We thank Thee for the founders of this great republic—for the noble men and women who fought and died and sacrificed for the

ideal of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Gratefully do we remember them; lovingly do we praise them for the rich legacy which they have bequeathed to us.

Heavenly Father, make us to understand that we, the inheritors of a noble tradition, must carry on in the spirit of those who have gone before. Make us to realize that we, too, must bear aloft the torch of freedom—that we, too, must sacrifice for those things which are dear to us.

Make us to understand that the battle for freedom is from generation to generation; that the war against privilege and injustice must be fought in every age and in every land.

Give us courage and foresight that we may not swerve from the path of truth. So may we pledge ourselves, anew, to cherish and hold sacred the glorious traditions and institutions handed down to us by our liberty-loving forbears.

March 12

ON THE LOS ANGELES EARTHQUAKE

ETERNAL GOD, thou Who art gracious and compassionate—Thou Who showest pity to Thy suffering children—we acknowledge that all we have belongs to Thee—all we possess is but a trust which we must soon or late deliver unto Thee.

Our lives are in Thy keeping—our possessions are Thine also and when Thou demandest what is Thine—shall we say "what doest Thou?"

Nay, Heavenly Father, we know Thou art just and righteous altogether—that Thy mercy endureth forever. We know that Thy ways are mysterious—past our human understanding.

Thou sendest us joys and from Thy hand cometh sorrow as well.

Thou givest and Thou takest away, for Thou art omnipotent.

Heavenly Father, now that destruction has overtaken us we pray Thee, in the words of

the Prophet—that Thou wilt repeat Thy promise of yore:

"Behold I will have compassion on the dwelling places;
And the city shall be builded upon her own mound,
And the palace shall be inhabited upon its wonted place.
And out of them shall proceed thanksgiving
And the voice of them that make merry."[1]

Grant consolation to the bereaved, O Father and renew the courage of the destitute. Restore the waste places of the earth and may Thy blessing of peace rest upon all Thy suffering children.

[1] Jeremiah 30:18

* * *

March 13

"The Lord our God be with us, as He was with our fathers; oh may He not leave us, nor forsake us;
That He may incline our heart unto him, to walk in all His ways, and to keep His commandments, and His statutes and His ordinances which He commanded our fathers."[1]

[1] I Kings 8:57-58

Blessed art Thou, O God, King of the Universe.

Thou hast chosen us as messengers of Thy truth. Thou hast raised prophets and sages to instruct us in Thy ways. Thou hast not withheld the light of Thy knowledge from us, O Father—rather hast Thou made known to us in every age and in every clime, Thy truths, which are unchanging and eternal.

If we have failed to live in conformity with Thy laws, Eternal One, it is not because Thou hast willed it so. Thou dost not withhold the light of Thy countenance from any of Thy children who seek after Thee.

Heavenly Father, inspire us with the desire to know Thee and to do Thy bidding. "Incline our hearts to Thee," that we may "walk in Thy ways, and keep the commandments, the statutes and the ordinance," which Thou hast commanded our fathers in ancient days, and which Thou commandest Thy children day by day.

March 14

FATHER OF MERCY, Thou makest the light of Thy countenance to shine upon all Thy children. Thou givest of Thy peace to the weary and the heavy-laden. None who seek Thee leave Thy presence empty handed.

Almighty God—awaken us to the tragedies being enacted about us—to the breakdown of home life—to the deplorable conditions of the contemporary scene—to the sad plight of homeless youth, wandering from city to city, seeking security and finding only disillusionment and discontentment.

May we interest ourselves in their problems, O Father. May we open our hearts to them and bring them assistance and relief and sympathetic understanding.

Thou, Who counsellest compassion to the widow and the orphan, inspire us with Thy love—that, loving Thee, we may love our fellow men—and serving Thee, we may also serve all who are in need of friendship and encouragement.

Direct our thoughts away from self that we may give freely and eagerly of our possessions, of our talents and of our love to the friendless, the homeless and the underprivileged.

* * *

March 15

FATHER OF MERCY: Thou watchest over Thy children as a shepherd watches over his flock.

We look to Thee for guidance, knowing Thou wilt not disappoint us. Thou wilt not cause our steps to falter, nor our hearts to grow faint.

Be Thou near to us in the hour of trial, O Eternal One. In the hour of our pleading, answer Thou us.

When dark shadows fall upon the land, show us the light of Thy countenance, that, trusting in Thee, loving Thee and seeking after Thee we may follow wherever Thou leadest.

March 16

HEAVENLY FATHER—Thou art exalted in holiness. Thou art the source of justice and mercy.

In Thy wisdom Thou hast ordained that we should strive to be holy as Thou art holy, just as Thou art just, merciful as Thou art merciful.

Teach us Thy ways that we may understand what Thou requirest of us.

May our daily lives reflect our reverence for Thee—our acts make clear our devotion to Thee. Give us strength that we may strive to be worthy of Thy presence and may our every thought and deed and impulse find favour in Thy sight.

* * *

March 17

HEAVENLY FATHER: With the prophet we exclaim: "Have we not all one father, has not one God created us all?" [1]

We travel divers paths to reach the throne

[1] Malachi 2:10

of Thy greatness but all paths lead to Thee. We praise Thee in divers tongues, but the burden of our praise is the same: allegiance to Thee and honor to Thy holy name.

Great are our differences in language, in creeds and in customs but greater yet is our united purpose to know Thee and our common aim to consecrate our lives to Thy service.

We thank Thee for all who have revealed Thyself and Thy purpose to mankind—for seer and prophet, for sage and saint. We thank Thee for all who, with zeal and devotion have worked in Thy vineyard, sowing the seeds of love and truth.

At this time we mention with reverence and respect the patron saint of Ireland. We reflect upon the self-sacrifice, the self-effacement, and the mighty courage of this Godly man of antiquity. His life's work has been an inspiration to countless generations of men.

The influence of his words and deeds has persisted through the ages.

And on this day, dedicated to his memory, we pay him homage and pray Thy blessing, O

Father, upon the descendants of the people he served and upon mankind, enriched and enlightened by his presence in the world.

* * *

March 20

HEAVENLY FATHER, Thy law is established from of old—Thy justice is from everlasting to everlasting—Thy mercy endureth forever.

When we meditate upon Thy law and reflect upon Thy commandments "our hearts are not haughty neither are our eyes lofty." [1] We are humble before Thee, O Father, suppliant at the throne of Thy greatness and perfection.

Engrave Thy law of truth upon our hearts, O God. At our lying down and our rising up make us cognizant of Thy commandments. Guide our footsteps in the way of justice and righteousness. Touch our hearts that we may be receptive to words of guidance and instruction.

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[1] Psalm 131:1

May love of Thee so completely possess us and hallow our lives that our every thought may praise Thee and every act bear witness to Thy supreme power. Make us Thine, O Father, that we may make the knowledge of Thee the inheritance and the blessing of mankind.

* * *

March 21

"I will lift up my voice unto God and cry;
I will lift up my voice unto God that He may give ear unto me
In the day of my trouble I seek the Lord . . .
I am troubled, and can not speak. I have pondered the days of old,
The years of ancient times." [1]

Thou wilt not cast off forever, O Lord. Thou wilt not fail to be gracious. Thy mercy has not departed from us—Thy compassion has not ceased from among us.

Thou, who makest known Thy strength among the peoples—Thou wilt redeem us and free us of our fears and our weaknesses. We will meditate upon all Thy works and, in musing upon Thy doings, we will find again the faith and the courage of olden days.

[1] Psalm 77:1, 2, 5

March 22

FATHER OF CERTAINTY—nothing in life is permanent but Thy presence—nothing endures but Thy great love.

Our years are brought to an end speedily. The fruit of our labors is naught but vanity—a striving after wind and folly.

All that is of the earth returns to the earth—but Thou, Heavenly Father, art eternal. Thou watchest over the works of Thy creation from everlasting to everlasting. Thou preservest the spirit which is of Thee.

Grant, O Father, that we may set our hearts upon the permanent values of life. Grant that we may seek Thee—that we may find comfort in the love with which Thou dost enfold us—happiness in obedience to Thy law of justice and righteousness . . . and life eternal in the fulfillment of our true mission as children created in Thy image.

March 23

GIVE US PEACE—Thy most precious gift, O Thou Eternal source of peace and enable our country to be the messenger of peace to all the countries of the world—and the advocate of peace in the councils of nations.

May this land, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the cause of freedom, equality and fraternity serve as the pattern and inspiration for statesmen throughout the world.

Thus, may the influence of the just and God-fearing men and women who built a haven of refuge on these shores extend to the four corners of the earth, and banish forever, all hatred, all intolerance and all strife.

* * *

March 24

HEAVENLY FATHER—Thou ruling spirit of the Universe. Thy Kingdom is righteous forever. Thy law is a tree of life to all that lay hold of it—all its ways are pleasantness and peace.

Engrave Thou Thy law upon our hearts, O Father, that we may experience, every day, the pleasantness and peace Thou vouchsafest to them that love Thee.

* * *

March 27

RIGHTEOUS JUDGE, the sages of old have cautioned us to be deliberate in judgment.

Thy servant, Abraham, prayed to Thee, saying—"Wilt Thou indeed destroy the righteous with the wicked"[1]—and Thou didst show Thy mercy, at all times, to them that feared Thee and kept Thy commandments.

May we not be deceived by externalities, O Father. May we not be harsh in judgment. May we not be led to condemn by outward appearances; rather may we reserve opinions and withhold judgment until such time as all facts and circumstances may be made known to us.

Grant that we may judge no man until we have stood in his place—and condemn no man

[1] Genesis 18:23

until proof of his culpability is incontrovertible.

So may we exercise judgment, in the manner and spirit pleasing to Thee.

* * *

March 28

MOST HIGH "Thou art our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will we not fear, though the earth do change." [1]

Thou, Who dwellest on high, look with compassion upon the desolations in the earth. Look with pity upon Thy children, who know not whither they are drifting. Guide us by the strength of Thy right hand. Lift us up when we are overcome with despondency, that we may turn our gaze to Thee and say with the Psalmist, "The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our high tower."

[1] Psalm 46

March 29

AUTHOR OF WISDOM—Father of Understanding, we praise Thee that Thou hast endowed us with the love of knowledge and the desire to pursue it. We are grateful that we are possessed of the Divine urge to know, to comprehend and to encompass the measure of all things.

May our love of knowledge increase with the years. May there be no diminution of our desire to add to that which we already possess. As physical vigor wanes may mental vigor increase. May each day find us wiser in knowledge, keener in perception and more firmly resolved to use our mental powers for the glory of Thy name and the benefit of mankind.

* * *

March 30

ETERNAL ONE, Thy word is light and life to the soul. Thy law is a goodly heritage.

By Thy teachings we are led aright; by Thy commandments we are taught to walk in the way of truth and honor.

Withhold not Thy light from them that seek Thee, O God. Answer our prayers—grant our petitions—hear us in mercy and be gracious unto us when we call upon Thy name.

In the hour of trial we seek Thee, Eternal One. Grant that we may ever find the solace, the inspiration and guidance of Thy Divine presence.

* * *

March 31

HEAVENLY FATHER: The wise King of Israel wrote:

"Boast not thyself of tomorrow:
For Thou knowest not what a day may bring forth." [1]

Verily, O God, the future is hidden from our gaze. We live from day to day and are sustained by Thy grace and mercy.

Cause us, O Father, to reflect upon life—that with all its uncertainty we may yet extract from each day alloted to us, the last full measure of consecrated living.

[1] Proverbs 27:1

May each day, at its conclusion, find us humble before Thee and at peace with our fellows—so that when the last day dawns we may be prepared to meet Thee face to face.

* * *

April 3

THE GERMAN CRISIS

FATHER OF COMPASSION, Author of loving kindness and mercy—Thou art "our light and our salvation." Thou art the strength of our life, our Comforter and Redeemer.

With the Psalmist we exclaim: "Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war should rise against me, even then would I confide in Thee." [1]

Compassionate Father Thou didst hear the cry of Thy children, calling to Thee out of the depths of misery and despair. Thou didst answer their prayers. Thou didst raise up mighty men of valor and humanity who stayed the hand of the oppressor so that the doom

[1] Psalm 27:3

which threatened to destroy Thy unfortunate ones was averted.

Thou didst touch the common humanity in the heart of Jew and Gentile alike so that, united in the cause of justice and truth, they made right to triumph over might, and mercy to triumph over harshness.

O Father of Mercy, answer the prayers of all who call upon Thee. Free all who are oppressed—and strike off the chains of those who are enslaved, whether physically or spiritually.

Bind Thy children together with bonds of friendship and brotherhood—and may the love of Thee lead all men, of all creeds, "to do justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with Thee."

* * *

April 4

HEAVENLY FATHER—Thou art the Creator and the Ruler of the world. The heavens declare Thy glory: the earth showeth Thy handiwork.

At this season of the year Thou revealest to man the splendors of Thy creation. At

Thy magic touch all nature is quickened to a renewed life and growth.

The flowers of the field and the trees of the forest betoken rebirth and reawakening. The song of the bird finds a joyous response in our hearts. The eternal mystery of spring enchants us once again and we praise Thee for Thy precious gift of life—and for the capacity to thrill to Thy wondrous handiwork.

Thou Who bringest harmony into nature, direct our eyes to see, our ears to hear and our hearts to understand the full meaning of this, Thy season of promise—that we may drink deeply from the timeless wells of Thy inspiration—and, amid the worries and cares of the day, find that peace which is our heritage from Thee.

* * *

April 5

ON THE DISASTER OF THE AKRON

OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN, to Thee we come when sorrow overwhelms us, when grief leaves us dejected and disconsolate. To Thee, we turn, praying that Thou

wilt take us out of the valley of despair . . . that Thou wilt send consolation to our sorrowing hearts.

Heavenly Father, a great disaster has befallen our nation. Our majestic Queen of the Skies, the Akron, built by the most skillful of workers, manned by the ablest officers and men, viewed with pride by every loyal American—has plunged to a watery grave.

That thing of beauty, of engineering skill —marvel of modern science—attesting to man's every growing power over the forces of nature—is now but a memory—a mass of twisted wreckage at the bottom of the sea. And most of the brave and gallant men who guided her through the skies—they, too, have gone to their eternal rest.

Father and King—we thank Thee for the lives of the rescued ones, even as we mention, in submission to Thy Divine will, the names of those who have perished.

Send Thy consolation to the fathers and mothers, the wives and children of those Thou hast gathered to Thy bosom.

Grant that these sacrifices shall not have been in vain—that from this tragic disaster we may learn either to construct more safely, or to refrain from building these great and seemingly ill-fated monsters of the sky.

Give us humility, O God, and may we ever view human life as precious beyond all else, beyond pride in competition—beyond all the material manifestations of man's handiwork.

* * *

April 6

MASTER BUILDER of the Universe, to Thee we lift our hearts in praise of work. We thank Thee that Thou hast given us to know the joy of toiling in useful service. We thank Thee for the exaltation which fills our hearts when a challenging task is met and carried through to completion.

Grant, O Master Builder, that we may lay the foundation stones for the new order of things. Hallow our work with Thy blessing. Guide Thou the strength of our right arms that we may build enduring structures worthy

of Thee. Direct our thoughts in the channels of goodness and truth, that we may be prompted to give our best efforts in the service to which Thou hast called us. May we all, from the humblest to the greatest, dedicate our talents to the glorification of Thy name.

* * *

April 7

THOU WHO ART righteous forever we thank Thee for the love of justice Thou hast implanted within us. We who are imperfect are grateful for the aspirations which lead us to Thee—and make us aware of our kinship with Thee.

May Thy love never forsake us, O God. May we ever rely upon the strength of Thy right arm. May we recognize our dependence upon Thee—that, realizing the Divine within ourselves, we may heed its summons—understanding that we are created in Thy image, we may walk in Thy ways and make Thy justice and Thy truth the law of mankind.

April 10

HEAVENLY FATHER Thou hast made man but little lower than the angels and hast given him power and dominion over all Thy works—and knowledge that he may rule judiciously.

We thank Thee, O Father, for the differences in intellect, the divergent views and the conflicting opinions of men. We thank Thee that we are not all cast in the same inflexible mold; we thank Thee for the power of reason with which Thou hast endowed us.

Make us, O God, to derive the fullest benefit from our talents and capabilities. Grant that the result of our deliberations and intellectual labors shall be pleasing to Thee. May ringing debate, challenging question and answer and sincere self-expression be the nucleus for intelligent legislation.

And when the smoke of intellectual battle has cleared away may there be no victor and vanquished—no gloating and sorrowing—only the agreeable armistice of good faith, of sincerity and honest conviction.

April 11

HEAVENLY FATHER—Wise and Omnipotent Ruler of the World, we pray Thy guidance and Thy blessing.

Give us the insight of Solomon—to whom Thou didst say, "Ask what I shall give Thee."

Not for long life, did the wise King ask; not for riches; nor for vengeance over his enemies.

He prayed, "Give Thy servant an understanding heart to judge Thy people, that I may discern between good and evil . . ."[1]

Incline Thou our hearts and minds in these same channels, O Father. Grant that, like the mighty King of old, we, too, may esteem understanding and discernment above all worldly possessions and honors.

May the measure of our lives be not longevity, not the accumulation of riches but rather usefulness, service and devotion to Thy wise laws.

[1] I Kings 3:9

April 12

"The whole history of the world to this day is in truth one continual establishment of the Old Testament revelation: O ye that love the eternal, see that ye hate the thing that is evil! To him that ordereth his conversation right, shall be shown the salvation of God . . . for, while other nations had the misleading idea that this or that, other than righteousness, is saving, and it is not; that this or that, other than conduct, brings happiness, and it does not; Israel had the true idea that righteousness is saving, and that to conduct belongs happiness." [1]

God of Justice, Thou Supreme Worker of Righteousness, we thank Thee for the gift of Thy Divine Spirit which impels us to love Thee and to do Thy commandments.

Fill our hearts with devotion to Thee, O Eternal. May we ever grow in understanding and appreciation of Thy word. Grant that we may hate that which is evil and cleave to that which is good. Grant that we may find salvation through works of righteousness and happiness in the fulfillment of Thy laws and commandments.

May Thy law be a priceless heritage to us, O God, guiding us, strengthening us and

[1] "Israel and His Revelation," Mathew Arnold

inspiring us to walk in the way that is pleasing to Thee.

* * *

April 13

A PRAYER FOR PASSOVER

GOD OF MERCY, Thou art a tower of strength to all who hope in Thee—Thou art a shield to such as look to Thee for salvation. Wherever men seek Thee, O Father, there art Thou to be found. Wherever men lift their voices in praise of Thee, there is the Temple of Thy holiness.

Thou art near to the master, but nearer to the slave in the dungeon. Thou answerest the prayers of the mighty ones, yet the lowly do not look to Thee in vain. Thou hearest the petitions of the oppressed and the persecuted. Thou sendest salvation to such as are bereft of hope, for Thou art a Merciful God.

Grant, O Merciful Father that the day may come when oppression will cease in the world; when intolerance will be no more; when men will no longer bring suffering to

their brothers. May the taskmaster's lash be laid aside—the taskmaster's voice be heard no more in the land. May Pharoah's heart be softened and may it beat in pity and in commiseration for all the children of God.

Grant that next year at this time all men shall be free.

* * *

April 14

"But in the end of days it shall come to pass,
That the mountain of the Lord's house shall be
established as the top of the mountains,
And it shall be exalted above the hills;
And peoples shall flow unto it.
And many nations shall go and say:
"Come ye and let us go up to the mountain of
the Lord,
And to the house of the God of Jacob;
And He will teach us of His ways,
And we will walk in His paths."[1]

O Lord, hasten Thou the day when this prophecy shall come to pass. Delay not the coming of that glorious era when all the children of men shall worship Thee in humility and in joy and in sincerity of purpose.

[1] Micah 4:1ff

May the time come speedily when our hearts will be attuned to Thy words—when love of Thee and knowledge of Thy ways will lead us all to the ideal of brotherhood and peace which Thou hast inspired in all who love Thee.

Strengthen us, O Father, that we may not falter in our resolve to make Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as in heaven.

* * *

April 17

FATHER OF MANKIND—Thou art righteous altogether; Thy judgments endure forever.

For Thy ways are not our ways, O Father; Thy standard of measurement transcends our own. Thou demandest righteousness—we "know not how to do right." Thou desirest justice—too often "we are swayed by violence and tyranny." Thou art all wise—we are but erring children of dust.

Be patient with us, Thou Who art merciful and long suffering. Instill within us the

longing to model our lives upon Thy Divine pattern—that Thy ways may become our ways—Thy standards our standards. Illumine our lives with the light of Thy inspiration that Thy blessing may hover continually upon the work of our hands.

* * *

April 18

CREATOR OF THE WORLD, Thou who hast made man in the Divine image, we praise Thee for the breath of life which sustains us. The spirit is Thine; Thine to give and Thine to take back when Thou choosest.

The prophet of old received Thy law on Sinai's mount and proclaimed to the people the commandment "Thou shalt not kill."

Grant, O Father, that we may reverence this, Thy law, and obey it. Grant that the desire for revenge may no longer lead us to exact payment of a life for a life. May we no longer be prompted to do collectively, as a state, that which we would not think of doing as individuals.

May it be Thy will, O Father, that the expressed desire of this Assembly may prevail in the Senate and find favor in the sight of our Chief Executive. So may our beloved California, heralded far and wide for its beauty and its grandeur, be known, throughout the world, for its progressiveness, its humanity and its law of justice tempered with mercy.

* * *

April 20

HEAVENLY FATHER, in Thy holy writ we read the words of the sage, warning us that "the thoughtless come into possession of folly" and reminding us that "the prudent are crowned with knowledge." [1]

Gratefully do we acknowledge our debt to the wise men of antiquity. Trusting in Thee and finding in Thee the source of their inspiration, they uttered gems of wisdom for the guidance and instruction of all men for all time and for all circumstances of life.

May we give heed to their admonitions, O Father. May we shun the path of thought-

[1] Proverbs 14:34

lessness which leads to folly and choose rather the path of prudence that we may be crowned with knowledge. Grant that we may be enabled so to order our lives that our every act will merit the seal of Thy Divine approval.

* * *

April 19

GOD, OUR KING, we thank Thee for the privilege of participation in this important legislative session.

Give us zeal—but may we not become over-zealous; make us earnest but not so earnest that we lose our sense of proportion. Give us the courage to voice our convictions in a forthright manner, but may our opponents find us amiable and just at all times.

Give us breadth of vision that we may respect every man's sincere conviction and view sympathetically the attitude which differs from our own.

Make us to realize that unanimity of opinion and identical viewpoint, far from being desirable, must lead invariably to

spiritual stagnation and retrogression while honest difference of opinion and intellectual conflict are the signs of progress and development.

May we not be alarmed by controversy nor dismayed by refutation or rebuttal—rather, may the warmth of debate and the divergence of thought we encounter here strengthen us and give us inspiration to complete the work which lies before us.[1]

[1] Printed in the Journal

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April 21

ON ABANDONING THE GOLD STANDARD

"The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul
The testimony of the Lord is sure making wise the simple
The precepts of the Lord are right rejoicing the heart
The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes
The fear of the Lord is clean enduring forever
The ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether,
More to be desired than gold, yea than much fine gold." [1]

[1] Psalm 19:7-10

Heavenly Father, Thy rule is constant; the standards Thou hast set for mankind are as applicable today as ever in the past. Thy law is fixed and determined; Thy commandments are unchanging; Thy precepts are invariable. From generation to generation Thou art ever the same.

May we, Thy children, with our shifting standards hold fast to Thee, Thou Rock of Ages. May we whose values are never constant cleave to Thee, the one unchanging reality in a constantly changing world. Though we shift our material standards for temporary advantage and relief—grant that we may hold fast to Thee, our shield and protector, our Rock and our Redeemer.

* * *

April 22

HEAVENLY FATHER, Thou sleepest not and slumberest not. Thou art the unfailing source of our energy, the fount of our inspiration. Thou art the mainstay of our lives and we thank Thee that in moments

of mental and physical weariness Thou givest us to drink of the life-giving wells of Thy salvation, whence we draw courage and inspiration.

When we tire of our many activities; when the daily round of duties palls upon us—fortify us, O God. When our work grows monotonous renew our zeal. When our footsteps lag and we can no longer carry on with the old zest and enthusiasm—hold Thou ever before us the goal toward which we are progressing and make us to see the reward which must finally crown our efforts.

When our eyes droop with weariness renew for us that inner vision without which our work must be burdensome and barren of results. Sustain our right hands, O Eternal One, and invigorate us that we may bring to a successful termination the many tasks which challenge us.

April 24

ON EDUCATION WEEK

HEAVENLY FATHER, Thou art a guide to the perplexed. Thy instruction sustains us in the hour of trial; the knowledge of Thy ways enheartens us in the hour of temptation.

We thank Thee that Thou hast implanted within us the desire to know Thee—to fathom the mysteries of Thy creation—to understand the world in which we live.

At the beginning of this week, dedicated to education, we pray Thy guidance, O Father.

Give us ambition that we may be eager to study and learn. Give us the desire to master the knowledge required to make us competent in our various undertakings.

Make us impatient with half-truths and intolerant of slip-shod methods.

Give us patience, that no task, however difficult, may discourage or dismay us, and strength, that we may hurdle every obstacle in the way before us. Imbue us with pride

that we halt not 'till the knowledge we are seeking is truly ours and the goal which beckons is finally reached.

And when formal education is completed, O Father, may we not become complacent and contented. Rather may each new day find us adding additional knowledge and information to our stores and discovering new goals toward which we may aspire.[1]

* * *

April 25

THOU WHO LEADEST us in ways of pleasantness and peace, Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.

We thank Thee that Thou hast blessed us with reason and hast given us knowledge and understanding.

Grant that we become not too dependent upon others.

May we bring to our problems faith and courage, zeal and earnestness.

[1] Printed in the Journal

Imbue us with the will to win—the ambition to accomplish and the vision to succeed. Make us helpful co-workers rather than submissive followers.

Let us not stumble along blindly, pinning our hopes upon forces we do not clearly perceive, nor fully understand. May our obedience be proud, not menial—dependent upon intelligent confidence, not upon fear and domination.

Make us a mighty host, a tower of strength to our leaders, that we may help them rout the forces of injustice and inequality and win glorious and lasting victory and peace.

* * *

April 27

GREAT AND MERCIFUL GOD—Thou makest glad the heart of man. We rejoice to come before Thee and to sing Thy praises. In the fulness of joy we come into Thy presence, our hearts overflowing with thanksgiving and song.

Grant, O Father of joy, that the light of Thy inspiring presence may be reflected in

our demeanor. May we face the trying situations of life, serene, unruffled and without resentment. May we receive every man courteously and with smiling countenance.

Make us good-natured, O God—endow us with a sense of humor, that we may not become disconcerted or ill-tempered. Hold our tongues in check and let us be slow to anger—slow to rebuke or to find fault.

May we find real joy in the fulfillment of Thy commandments and supreme happiness in friendly and harmonious relations with our fellows.

* * *

May 1

THOU, WHENCE ALL our blessings flow, help Thou us to help ourselves—give us faith in our ability to do—confidence in our ability to accomplish, to restore, to make whole again.

Give us vision that we may see whither we are drifting—that we may steer our course in the right channels.

Grant that our well-laid plans go not astray—that our schemes to restore confidence and prosperity may meet with success—that the discussions at Washington, participated in by the representatives of great nations—may bring the peace and security and happiness we long for.

Grant, O Father, that our President and his advisers may guide us aright. Give him the courage and the foresight, the strength and the zeal to snatch victory from the overwhelming forces of chaos and disorder confronting us today.

* * *

May 2

THOU, WHO ART the fount of inspiration, we thank Thee for the aspirations which lead us to Thee and make us aware of our dependence upon Thee.

May Thy love ever guide and sustain us, O Father. May the strength of Thy right arm guard and protect us.

Recognizing our kinship with Thee may we strive for the perfection Thou desirest. May we heed the compelling summons of the Divine within ourselves. Realizing that we are created in Thy image, O Father, may we be eager to walk in Thy ways and to make Thy law of justice and truth the rule whereby we live.

* * *

May 4

FATHER AND KING, we thank Thee for the spring of the year—for the season of renewal and reawakening—for the Divine gifts of beauty and spiritual refreshment.

We thank Thee for the warmth of the sun, for the caress of the breeze, for the gentle rain and for the luxuriance of wood and field.

Grant, O Father, that the sunlight of this joyous season may penetrate our hearts—that we may reflect its glowing radiance in kindliness, in generosity and in warmth of spirit.

Grant that the breath of spring may awaken us to tenderness and eager responsiveness.

May the beauties of the earth call forth the beauty of Thy spirit which dwells in each

of us—impelling us to obey the impulses of goodness and nobility dormant within us.

Inspire us with Thy Eternal presence, O God, that we may abide with Thee and find our happiness in the fulfillment of Thy commandments.

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May 5

THOU, WHO ART our strength and our reliance, we thank Thee for the faith and courage with which Thou hast endowed us.

May our faith rest upon those things which endure forever—the measure of justice, the law of truth and love and mercy.

May our courage lead us to self-appraisal and self-analysis that we may divorce ourselves from all that is base and ignoble.

May danger hold no terrors for ús. Girded in righteousness, in reliance upon Thee and Thy power, may we have faith and courage to battle in Thy cause.

May 8

LOVING FATHER, Thou art the shepherd—we are the flock—where Thou leadest we delight to follow.

Now that the session draws to a close and but a few days remain to us, we come to Thee for that guidance Thou, alone, givest to all who put their trust in Thee.

Now, more than at any time in recent weeks do we need Thee, O Father. We would hold fast to the course we charted when, with the joy of anticipation, we started upon our duties at the beginning of the session.

Whatever of idealism spurred us on in the beginning—keep Thou vital and fresh for us today.

Whatever desires to serve our people prompted us at first, mayest Thou help us faithfully to reaffirm in the present.

Whatever of inspiration buoyed us up with hope and enthusiasm at the outset, renew Thou for us, now that our labors draw to a close.

May Thy blessing rest upon our work, as, in obedience to Thy commandments, we enter upon the final week of our session.

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May 9

IN MEMORY OF A FRIEND

SOURCE OF LIFE, Thou art all seeing and omnipotent, working wonders.

We praise Thee for life's sorrows no less than for its joys. We know that time is fleeting; that all passeth away quickly; that the grave is the final goal of all men. We are aware that while we propose, Thou dost dispose—while we labor and plan, Thou, alone, knowest whether we shall live to see the completion of our works.

Grant, O Father, that life's sorrows may not daunt us. May not the spectre of death rob us of courage and assurance. May the hope which springs eternal in the human breast help us to hurdle every barrier and surmount every obstacle. Though we see day follow day with breath-taking haste—though

the flower which blooms is soon cut down to wither and die—give us faith in life's purpose —give us courage to live like men, that with stout hearts and heads erect we may be prepared for every thrust of fate.

And when death takes a loved one from our midst, may our lips echo our heart's prayer—Thy will be done, O Father, Thou givest, Thou takest away, blessed art Thou, forever.

* * *

May 10

HEAVENLY FATHER—we believe in Thee, we trust in Thy goodness—we hope for Thy mercy—we pray for Thy salvation.

Grant, O Father, that we may believe in ourselves—that we may trust in the instincts for righteousness Thou hast implanted within us.

Hoping in Thee and aspiring to Thy greatness may we dedicate ourselves to Thy service.

May honest self-searching lead us to self-ennoblement and spiritual perfection. May

we strive to become worthy of Thy praise and deserving of Thy blessings.

May the Temple of Thy holiness be found in our hearts, that we may worship Thee always.

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May 11

RULER OF THE WORLD, Thou art King over the earth and all that is therein. The children of men sing praises to Thy name, O Most High.

Grant that each of us may become a just ruler in his own realm. Grant that we may govern wisely, each in his own limited sphere. May truth and justice be our counsellors; love and mercy our trusted familiars.

May we recognize Thee as the only superior and may our personal lives be patterned after Thy righteous Kingdom.

O, Thou Who art clothed in majesty—grant that we may be found worthy of the power and dominion Thou hast entrusted to us.

May 12

SECOND RECESS

HEAVENLY FATHER, Thou hast brought us safely through a difficult session. Through days fraught with the vicissitudes of economic distress and political uncertainty Thou hast been our unfailing guide. In days of stress and suspense—in nights given over to plodding, to weary and monotonous routine, Thou hast ever been the source of our strength and inspiration.

When the waves of despair and discouragement beat against us, Thou didst protect us. When the tides of disillusionment and cynicism threatened to overcome us, Thou, alone, didst bring us safely through the ordeal. Thou hast been our shield in distress—our staunch support in time of trouble.

Grant, O Father, that the days and nights spent in these legislative halls may be productive of great benefit to the people of California. Grant that the laws enacted here may strengthen the rule of justice and righteousness in the land—may bring relief to the

heavily burdened—consolation and assistance to the lowly ones among the people. Grant that our groping after light—our sincere endeavors to perform the duties entrusted to us and the final outcome of our labors, reflected in new laws and enactments may result in increased happiness and well-being to the people of our great state.

Bless Thou the work of our hands, O Father—yea the work of our hands, bless Thou it.

* * *

July 17

HEAVENLY FATHER, once again we assemble before Thee to ask Thy blessing upon the work we are about to begin.

We stand on the threshold of a new day. We have, at long last, pierced the mists of uncertainty. We have overcome the haunting mood of fear which has gripped us during the past three years. Out of the maze of depression and helplessness we have struggled to the high mountain of hope and promise.

"We lift our eyes to the hills, from whence cometh our help." With the Psalmist we exclaim, "Our help cometh from the Lord who made heaven and earth."[1]

May we ever rely upon Thy strength, O God—Thou Who bringest forth good out of evil, order out of chaos, light out of darkness. May we dedicate ourselves to Thy service and the service of our fellow men. Guide us aright that we may perform, faithfully, the duties entrusted to us. Sustain us by Thy might—that we may have the strength and determination, the foresight and the wisdom, to fulfill the hopes of all who look to us for help. Amen.

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July 18

THOU, WHO GUIDEST our destinies —grant us in this hour, breadth of vision, that, like the prophets of old, we may read the signs of the times aright, giving to the events of the present, earnest and intelligent consideration, and recognizing their true import and significance.

[1] Psalm 121:1, 2

Grant that we may weigh carefully the merits of the measures proposed at this session. Let not undue haste disturb the balance of our judgment, nor prolonged debate obscure the issues before us.

May our criterion be the greatest good for the greatest number of people. So may we justify the faith of our constituents and merit the confidence and goodwill of the citizens of the State of California. Amen.

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July 19

FATHER OF MANKIND, give us this day confidence and zeal that we may come to grips with the realities presenting themselves before us.

Save us from self-deception. May we not trust in illusions, nor take refuge in escape from reality.

Give us courage that we may not be tempted to turn away from facts, no matter how unpleasant their appearance—nor from truth, bitter though its form may be.

Make us champions of truth, O Father. Guided by Thy presence may we make the truth to prevail, and right to flourish in the land. Amen.

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July 20

GRACIOUS FATHER, may the peace of Thy presence hover over us this day, bringing quietness and calm and inner serenity to our troubled spirits.

When enemies plot against us, may we take refuge in Thee. When evil-doers wrong us, may we find consolation in the shelter of Thy love. Give us strength to withstand the petty annoyances bound up with the day's work, so that, unruffled and serene, we may go our separate ways at peace with the world and with ourselves. Amen.

* * *

July 21

ETERNAL ONE, Thou abidest with us always. Thy nearness is our strength. Thy over-mastering presence is the source of all good impulses which animate us.

We thank Thee that Thou makest Thyself known to man; that aspiring toward Thee, we are given to know Thee and to claim Thy help and protection.

Grant that we may be ever receptive to the influence of Thy holy spirit. May we never shut Thee out of our lives. May the knowledge of Thy nearness impel us so to act that we may be found worthy of Thy all-encompassing love. Amen.

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July 22

HEAVENLY FATHER, we thank Thee for the gift of each new day, with its renewal of hope, its wealth of promise and its countless opportunities for the fulfillment of Thy commands.

May we, driven by the Divine within us, lay hold of these opportunities as they present themselves.

May we meet the challenge of tomorrow by executing, faithfully, the tasks which fall to us today.

May we build lasting foundations, fashioned to withstand the onslaughts of time—structures, which shall endure through the centuries as monuments to Thy great name. Amen.

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July 24

GRACIOUS RULER of the Universe, in this hour of reawakened optimism, when the sun of recovery begins to pierce the black clouds of depression and despair, we call upon Thee to keep the vision of our goal ever before us.

May we give to the National government, the cooperation necessary for complete rehabilitation. May the measures we enact here hasten the day when every man will be able to dwell in security and peace, when those nightmares of unemployment, hunger and distress will be forever banished—when the land will be blessed, once again, with work and with plenty. Amen.

July 25

HEAVENLY FATHER, on this, the final day of our session, we assemble to thank Thee for the gifts of life and health which Thou hast vouchsafed unto us. Thou hast been with us from the first. Thou hast guarded our out-going and our in-coming. Thou hast given direction to our thoughts and compassion to our hearts. Each morning our deliberations have begun with the pronouncement of Thy name and the plea for Thy wise guidance.

On this final day we acknowledge that Thou hast been our ever present help, to whom we have turned in every emergency.

For what we have been able to accomplish in this session, we thank Thee. For what we have attempted and have not brought to completion, we thank Thee.

For friendships which have ripened in these legislative halls and for sincere leadership developed here, we thank Thee. For the service we have been able to render our constituents, our State and our Nation, we thank

Thee, O Father. For all things, great and small, we are grateful to Thee.

We pray that Thy blessing may rest upon us all and upon our loved ones, upon the State of California and these United States. Amen.